

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 NASA-01 ACDA-07 DHA-02 MCT-01 /079 W  
-----132044Z 051999 /70

R 131418Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 411  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, INS, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES ONE WEEK AFTER COUP D'ETAT

REF: VICTORIA 307 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONDITIONS IN SEYCHELLES CONTINUED TO NORMALIZE OVER JUNE 11-12 WEEKEND WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FURTHER REDUCTION IN HOURS OF CURFEW (NOW IN EFFECT 2200-0500) AND REOPENING OF SCHOOLS JUNE 13. SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES NOW PERMITTED DURING LUNCH TIME AND EARLY EVENING AT LICENSED SHOPS, BARS AND RESTAURANTS. RADIO BULLETINS BROADCAST OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PROHIBITED DRINKING "ALONG PUBLIC ROADS" AND URGED CITIZENRY TO ADOPT MORE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD DRINKING. (COMMENT: MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT EXCESSIVE DRINKING WAS SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL PROBLEM BEFORE COUP D'ETAT).

2. ARMED CIVILIANS ARE ONLY IN EVIDENCE AT AIRPORT WHEN FLIGHT MOVEMENTS ARE SCHEDULED. A FEW IRREGULARS IN CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS STILL STATIONED AT RADIO SEYCHELLES AND SOME OTHE KEY INSTALLATIONS.

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3. IN PAST 72 HOURS, RENE'S REGIME HAS ANNOUNCED ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS. IN ALL BUT TWO CASES (INFORMATION/ ADMINISTRATION AND AVIATION), SENIOR POSTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO SEYCHELLOIS. SOME FORMER BRITISH PERMANENT SECRETARIES HAVE BEEN RETAINED IN THEIR FORMER MINISTRIES AND GIVEN THE TITLE "ADVISOR." IMPORTANT POST OF SECRETARY TO THE CABINET HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ABOLISHED AND ITS PRESENT INCUMBENT DAVID DALE, WHO IS PRESENTLY

ON LEAVE IN UK, IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN. FULL LIST OF NEW  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE POUCHED THIS WEEK.

4. THREE-MAN TANZANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED IN SEYCHELLES JUNE 10.  
BBC CORRESPONDENT AND TV CAMERA CREW WERE AT AIRPORT TO MEET FLIGHT  
BUT WERE KEPT AT A DISTANCE BY SECURITY POLICE. RENE WAS REPORTEDLY  
UPSET WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION  
JAMES MICHEL, WHO REFUSED TO ALLOW REPORTERS TO INTERVIEW VISITORS  
AND DECLINED EVEN TO IDENTIFY THEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RENE WAS  
ALSO PERTURBED WITH BRIEFING JACQUES HODOUL GAVE VISITING FOREIGN  
JOURNALISTS, FEELING THAT HODOUL HAD "OVERLY DRAMATIZED SITUATION"  
AND ERRED IN REFERRING TO "MARXIST" CHARACTER OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT AIRCRAFT WHICH CARRIED  
TANZANIAN DELEGATION ALSO TRANSPORTED BREN GUNS, GRENADES AND  
LARGE QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION. (COMMENT: IF REPORT OF ARMS DELIVERY  
IS ACCURATE, RENE'S SECURITY FORCES WOULD HAVE RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT  
BOOST SINCE WEAPONRY ON HAND AT TIME OF COUP WAS LIMITED TO  
RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND SUBMACHINE GUNS).

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## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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